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18 March 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
FROM: [REDACTED]
National Intelligence Officer
for China
SUBJECT: Proposed Reply to Mr. Ellsworth's Letter

1. I propose that the following letter be sent to Mr. Ellsworth over your signature.

"Dear Bob,

"I read with considerable interest your letter of 11 March. Some of the points you raised were incorporated in my letter of 12 March to Brent Scowcroft which forwarded the five plans for [REDACTED]

"I share your concerns about sacrificing needed intelligence capability. I have proposed in my letter that the drawdown of personnel be carefully phased and I have favored those options which reserve for us an essential intelligence capability.

"I appreciate the cooperation which NSA and ISA provided during the long working sessions which led up to our final paper.

George Bush
Director"

2. For the Director only: As I explained to you earlier, we now need a political decision and intelligence

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will have to adjust to the new realities. Mr. Ellsworth's suggestion that you seek to delay the final political decision on [] in deference to intelligence considerations is to me inappropriate. What the President wants now is quite clear to me. We are not rushing into anything and the most recent efforts which involved DOD to phase out [] began a long time ago, June 1975 to be more precise.

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